Diving Deeper into Discipleship

March 7, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

On the Altar: Homemade Sacrifice

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- When you consider sacrificing things to/for God, do you do so out of your leftovers, your margins, or your extras? Or from your best?
- Thank God for rescuing you from the bondage of sin, both generally and in specific instances of victorious living.
- Between the two, do you spend more time focusing on protecting what you have, or asking where God might be leading you next?
- If you've never done so before, invite Jesus into your life; the One who shelters us from the destruction intended by the enemy of our souls.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Genesis 4:1-12** | What does the story of Cain and Abel teach us about our posture of sacrifice toward God? How does a "proper" sacrifice affect other parts of our lives?
- **Proverbs 5:21-23** | In what ways do you think people become "ensnared" and "held fast" by the cords of sin?
- **Hebrews 9:11-14** | According to this passage, what did the blood of Christ accomplish that the blood of earlier sacrifices (like the Passover Lamb) could not?

Self-Care Discipline

March Discipline: Submission | The Triune God (*Celebration of Discipline, p.121-122*)

- Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week in the month of March.
- The first act of submission is to the Triune God. At the beginning of the day we wait, in the words of the hymn writer, "yielded and still" before our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The first words of our day form the prayer of Thomas à Kempis, "As Thou wilt; what Thou wilt; when Thou wilt." We yield our body, mind, and spirit for His purposes. Likewise, the day is lived in deeds of submission interspersed with constant motions of inward surrender. As the first words of the morning are of submission, so are the last words of the night. We surrender our body, mind, and spirit into the hands of God to do with us as He pleases through the long darkness.

Notes